

SkillsUSA Kentucky Officer ALERT

A State Officer Publication

March 2009



Volume 1, Issue 2

The official SkillsUSA Kentucky State Community Service Project



LEND A HAND GIVE A CAN

A request from your SkillsUSA Kentucky State Officer Team:

The SkillsUSA Kentucky State Leadership Conference is scheduled for April 7-10, 2009 and we would like to request your help with a statewide community service project. The "Lend a Hand - Give a Can," project.

This year, Kentucky citizens suffered the worst snow disaster in the history of the state and we believe SkillsUSA chapters can help make a difference. That's why we want to ask your help in supporting a SkillsUSA Canned Food Drive.

Our request is simple: ask members of your chapter to bring in at least one can for each hand. It's that simple and collectively we can make a positive difference.

Who: All SkillsUSA Kentucky Chapters
What: Canned foods
Where: Louisville - deliver at conference registration
When: April 2009
Why: SkillsUSA Kentucky Community Service

The SkillsUSA Kentucky chapter that brings the most cans to state conference will be given an award.

Once again we, the 2008-2009 SkillsUSA Kentucky state officer team, would like to thank you for your support. We are "Champions at Work" by helping people in need.



SkillsUSA Kentucky State Officer Team:

*Postsecondary President – Kristi Reeves
Secondary President – Righter Dundon
Vice President – Loretta Wallace
Secretary – Andrea Lewis
Reporter – Jason Ballman
Chaplain - Heather York
Treasurer - Danielle Phelps*



Contents

"Lend A Hand-Give A Can" - (page 1)
State Officers and OCTE Central Office Staff
Mentoring Activity (page 2)
Student Organization Leadership Day: (page 3)
State Officers' Retreat: (pages 4 & 5)
President's Letter (page 6)
"It's Been a Great Year"
and Message from Jason Ballman, Reporter
A special Thank You to Ms. Ruth Gray
By: Heather York, Chaplain: (page 7)

LEND A HAND GIVE A CAN

SkillsUSA Kentucky State Officers meet and shadow OCTE Central Office Staff during Career and Technical Education Week



Righter Dundon
SkillsUSA secondary president and
OCTE Executive Director John Marks



Kristi Reeves, SkillsUSA PS president
and OCTE Deputy Executive Director
Michael Kindred



Above: Jason Ballman,
reporter and **Bill Denton,**
OCTE Ombudsman

At right: Andrea Lewis,
secretary and **Steve**
Bennett, Secondary
Initiatives Branch
Manager



Above: Heather York,
chaplain and **Emily**
Hehl, OCTE Branch
Mgr., Budget/School
Support Branch

*This mentoring
activity took place
on Monday,
February 9, 2009 as
part of a leadership
development
exercise.*



At right: State Officers had an opportunity to meet with Education and Workforce Development Cabinet Secretary Helen Mountjoy during their visit to Frankfort for the Kentucky Association of Career and Technical Education's Student Organization Leadership Day.

SkillsUSA Participates in 2009 Student Organization Leadership Day

Approximately 1,000 students and advisors from across the commonwealth attended Student Organization Leadership Day (SOLD) activities at the Frankfort High School gym on Tuesday, February 10, 2009. Coordinated by the Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE), the event was held in honor of National Career and Technical Education Month.



Students also had an opportunity to tour the State Capitol and meet with their legislators. Resolutions were read in both the House of Representatives and in the Senate in commemoration of February as 2009 Career and Technical Education Month.



Representative Derrick Graham, 57th District, recognized Righter Dundon, SkillsUSA state president on the Floor of the Kentucky House of Representatives.



"How to Meet a Legislator" - CTSO state officers practice their role-play exercise prior to the official performance. Photo (l to r): Thomas Thorne (FBLA), Jason Ballman, and Kristi Reeves.

State Officer Retreat - Cumberland Falls State Resort Park March 20-22, 2009



Above: Righter Dundon, Loretta Wallace, Kristi Reeves, Heather York, Andrea Lewis, and Jason Ballman.



Righter Dundon
Secondary President



Kristi Reeves
PS President



Loretta Wallace
Vice President

**State Officer Retreat - Cumberland Falls State Resort Park
March 20-22, 2009**



Jason Ballman
Reporter



Heather York
Chaplain



Andrea Lewis
Secretary

The State Officer Retreat served as a final leadership session prior to the SkillsUSA Kentucky Leadership and Skills Conference – April 7-10, 2009.

Officers went over the opening and closing ceremonies, reviewed parliamentary procedure, practiced each officer part, engaged in a rehearsal requiring full official dress and reviewed the final message for their statewide community service project – “Lend A Hand – Give a Can.”

The retreat also served as a final review of all the activities they had been involved in during the 2008-09 school year.

**LEND A HAND
GIVE A CAN**

**Righter Dundon**

President's Letter – By: Righter Dundon It's Been a Great Year – Thank You

On behalf of the entire SkillsUSA Kentucky state officer team, I want to personally thank our state director, Mr. Steve Phillippi, for his dedication to us over this past year. We are better officers as a result of our training.

Because of his efforts, we have been able to attend state and national conferences, complete a national officer training program, serve as a national SkillsUSA delegate, serve as a team leader for SkillsUSA Kentucky members during KLTi, represent our organization during the 2009 Student Organization Leadership Day (SOLD)

program in Frankfort, attend special events, open and close a state conference, and learn the importance of being part of a team. It's been an experience that we will all remember for years to come. We have all grown as a result of this journey.

I also know that our resumes look better because we have been part of this great student organization. Thank you, Mr. Phillippi. I have learned so much from you and our "talks" have been very special to me. Mr. Phillippi - You expect a lot from all of us, but you have given all of us a lot in return. We are better officers because you demand excellence. I have never met anyone more organized and prepared than you (well, maybe my mom), and it has made an impression on me and how I approach tasks. Being motivated, prepared, involved, and connected are all part of what SkillsUSA is about and you have put us to task – but we are better for it. Thank you.

Likewise, our thanks go out to Miss Ruth Gray, our SkillsUSA State Officer advisor. Miss Gray has been at every meeting and has gone out of her way to make sure that some of our officers had transportation to and from different meetings. Even though it meant longer hours for her, she thought it was important and we appreciate her loyalty to us. She has not only helped us grow, we know she is our friend.

And to all of my fellow state officers, it's been great getting to know each of you. We have worked hard, grown, matured, and learned how to become effective leaders. But, we have also developed a friendship that each of us will cherish. It has been my pleasure working with all of you and I wish each of you good luck in the future.

**Thank You to Mr. Phillippi and Ms. Gray
By: Jason Ballman, SkillsUSA Reporter**

This year as a SkillsUSA Kentucky State Officer has been exciting and I have had lots of fun. Throughout the year, our state director Mr. Steve Philippi has asked a lot from us - not only in physical work, but in improving our ability to work with others and to take charge and lead at times when a true leader is needed. (Continued on page #7)



**Heather York**

A special thank you to Ms. Ruth Gray, SkillsUSA KY State Officer Advisor

By: Heather York, SkillsUSA Kentucky Chaplain

Ms. Donna Ruth Gray is a fairly well known person, but few know her like I do. Ms. Gray is my school advisor, as well as my state-officer advisor. In her I find a teacher, a mentor, a confidant, and a close friend.

As a teacher, she ranks above all others. She is not only an expert in her field, but a leader among leaders. When most teachers are capable of handling one class, Ms. Gray often has two or three at a time. She is a magician in the kitchen. From appetizers to main dishes to desserts, there is nothing in the culinary field that is

out of her league. Her work order list is never empty. From decorating thirty cakes for the Fall Festival, to making spaghetti for the Senior Class Supper, she is always busy. However, she is never too busy to help someone in need. She has spent countless hours helping me improve my icing technique and my portfolio.

As a state officer, I know how stressful events can be. Multiply the stress by ten, and you would have the same amount as Ms. Gray. Organizing State and Regional Competitions, training the new officer team and going over scripts is all in a days work for her. When everyone else is ready to start screaming, she is the first to crack a joke, or on occasion, a prank. Stress and worry does not effect her.

In my three years of knowing her, she has done so much for so many. So, from all the State Officers, Caldwell County ATC and culinary students, and all SkillsUSA members past and present, thank you for all you do. It may seldom be voiced, but you are appreciated by all. You rock Ms. Gray. Thank you.

continued from page #6 - Thank You to Mr. Phillippi and Ms. Gray

By: Jason Ballman, SkillsUSA Reporter

Our Officer Adviser Mrs. Ruth Gray has put in so much time in to help Mr. Philippi and the state officers to be as successful and productive as possible. I would also like to personally thank Ms. Gray for going above and beyond the expectations of her job. She has helped us look and act professionally, and ironed our official dress (so I wouldn't ruin it). She is always there for us.

Both Mr. Phillippi and Ms. Gray are people who have made a huge impact on my life - one I will never forget. Thank you.

To visit the SkillsUSA Kentucky State web site, please visit:

<http://www.kytech.ky.gov/SkillsUSA%20Kentucky%20Page.htm>